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Award Number: W81XWH-04-1-0297

TITLE: Baltimore City Faith-Based Prostate Cancer Prevention and Control Coalition

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REPORT DATE: February 2008

TYPE OF REPORT: Final

PREPARED FOR: U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command  
Fort Detrick, Maryland 21702-5012

DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT: Approved for Public Release;  
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<b>REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE</b>				<i>Form Approved</i> <b>OMB No. 0704-0188</b>	
Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing this collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to Department of Defense, Washington Headquarters Services, Directorate for Information Operations and Reports (0704-0188), 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 1204, Arlington, VA 22202-4302. Respondents should be aware that notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information if it does not display a currently valid OMB control number. <b>PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR FORM TO THE ABOVE ADDRESS.</b>					
<b>1. REPORT DATE (DD-MM-YYYY)</b> 01-02-2008		<b>2. REPORT TYPE</b> Final		<b>3. DATES COVERED (From - To)</b> 1 FEB 2004 - 31 JAN 2008	
<b>4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE</b>  Baltimore City Faith-Based Prostate Cancer Prevention and Control Coalition				<b>5a. CONTRACT NUMBER</b>	
				<b>5b. GRANT NUMBER</b> W81XWH-04-1-0297	
				<b>5c. PROGRAM ELEMENT NUMBER</b>	
<b>6. AUTHOR(S)</b> Keith O. Plowden, Ph.D.  E-Mail: plowden@son.umaryland.edu				<b>5d. PROJECT NUMBER</b>	
				<b>5e. TASK NUMBER</b>	
				<b>5f. WORK UNIT NUMBER</b>	
<b>7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)</b>  University of Maryland, Baltimore Baltimore, MD 21201				<b>8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER</b>	
<b>9. SPONSORING / MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)</b> U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command Fort Detrick, Maryland 21702-5012				<b>10. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S ACRONYM(S)</b>	
				<b>11. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S)</b>	
<b>12. DISTRIBUTION / AVAILABILITY STATEMENT</b> Approved for Public Release; Distribution Unlimited					
<b>13. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES</b>					
<b>14. ABSTRACT</b> African American men are disproportionately affected by prostate cancer. In order to positively impact this disease, early interventions that encourage early detection and treatment are essential. The primary purpose of this study is to test an investigator developed community-based intervention that explores the impact of peer-outreach workers on prostate cancer knowledge, perceived benefit and barriers, and overall screening behavior. The target sample for this study will be Black men over age 40 who have never participated in prostate cancer screening. Achievement of this objective will result in an increase in prostate cancer knowledge, an increase in perceived benefit prostate cancer screening and treatment; a decrease in perceived barrier to screening, and an increase in screening among men in the intervention group.					
<b>15. SUBJECT TERMS</b> Prostate Cancer, African American men, screening, motivators					
<b>16. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF:</b>			<b>17. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT</b>  UU	<b>18. NUMBER OF PAGES</b>  6	<b>19a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE PERSON</b> USAMRMC
<b>a. REPORT</b> U	<b>b. ABSTRACT</b> U	<b>c. THIS PAGE</b> U			<b>19b. TELEPHONE NUMBER (include area code)</b>

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## Introduction

The primary purpose of this study was to test an investigator developed community-based intervention that explores the impact of peer-outreach workers on prostate cancer knowledge, perceived benefit and barriers, and overall screening behavior. The target sample for this study was Black men over age 40 who have never participated in prostate cancer screening. This intervention was be tested in churches within the Baltimore City area with a large Black male membership. The study will build on prior knowledge of motivators of urban Black men, specifically cancer. These studies showed that faith leaders and community individuals, specifically those who have or have had the disease, are strong motivators of health seeking behaviors for urban Black men. Specific aims for this study are: 1) Establish an infrastructure for the development of faith-based prostate cancer outreach in West Baltimore; 2) identify and train a cadre of outreach workers that will assist with the development of prostate cancer prevention and control initiatives in their church; and 3) evaluate the effects of peer-led prostate cancer initiative on prostate cancer knowledge, perceived benefits and barriers to seeking screening, and participation in prostate cancer screening. This study will use a participatory action research approach. Churches will be randomly assigned to an intervention and control groups. In the intervention group, faith leaders and someone from the church will be recruited and trained in prostate cancer prevention outreach. This individual will be a prostate cancer survivor or someone who has participated in screening. They will then conduct prostate cancer prevention outreach for Black men 40 years and older who have never participated in prostate cancer screening. The control churches will receive outreach traditional outreach from a professional (the study team). Free screening will be offered to men in both groups. In order to accomplish the objective of this study, 200 men (100 per group) will be recruited to participate in the outreach. Using logistic regression, the team will evaluate the effects of this intervention on perceived benefits of and barriers to screening and overall screening behaviors of these men.

The long term benefits of this project is a better understanding of the role of faith communities and peers in motivating men to seek prostate cancer screening. The long term goal is to reduce prostate cancer mortality disparity among Baltimore City Black men through early detection and treatment. This project will also enhance the capacity of individuals and groups to address other diseases within their community and neighborhood. Using outreach workers who are community based is effective and cost efficient.

Baltimore City Faith-Based Prostate Cancer Prevention and Control Coalition

**The following hypotheses will be tested:**

1. Men who are exposed to peer-led intervention will show an increase in prostate cancer knowledge, perceived benefits, and screening activity.
2. Men who are exposed to the peer-led intervention will show a decreased in perceived barriers to screening.

## **Objectives**

Specific aims for this study are:

1. Establish an infrastructure for the development of church-based prostate cancer outreach in churches in Baltimore City.
2. Identify and train a cadre of outreach workers that will assist with the development of prostate cancer prevention and control initiatives in their church.
3. Evaluate the effects of peer-led prostate cancer initiative on prostate cancer knowledge, perceived benefits and barriers to seeking screening, and participation in prostate cancer screening.

## **Body:**

Institutional Review Board approval was obtained on March 16, 2004. Request for human subject approval was submitted to the Human Subjects Research Review Board (HSRRB) for review. Final approval to recruit human subjects was received on January 10, 2005. The project was delayed 1 year in recruitment due to final approval dates from DOD. The following tasks were accomplished to objectives of this study:

### **Task I. Establish an infrastructure for the development of church-based prostate cancer outreach in churches in Baltimore City.**

A communication specialist and educator have been hired to assist with the development of project infrastructure. We have had 4 meetings with faith communities to begin developing the infrastructure. All faith communities identified an individual to receive additional training in prostate prevention. All individual from the experimental group have completed the training. Each faith community has a designated education resource area for men with specific information on prostate cancer. A final training was done with all members of the project and training has been done with the control group. The group is now meeting as a combined coalition.

### **Task II: Identify and train a cadre of outreach workers that will assist with the development of prostate cancer prevention and control initiatives in their church.**

Health Educators have been recruited and trained for faith communities in the experimental group. All trained educators have developed a resource area in their designated faith community and provided at least 1 outreach per year targeting men over 40 years of age who have not received prostate cancer education or screening. Each faith community was given education material to display in a designated area. We have provided educational material to be displayed and distributed in all participating faith communities. The

**Task III. Evaluate the effects of peer-led prostate cancer initiative on prostate cancer knowledge, perceived benefits and barriers to seeking screening, and participation in prostate cancer screening.**

To date, we have completed all training for faith communities and are still in the process of completing follow up evaluation with the men participating in the outreach.

**Key Research Accomplishments:**

- Local IRB and Army Human Subjects Research Review Board (HSRRB) have been maintained throughout the project
- Staff were hired and trained
- Curriculum develop for training of peer workers
- Faith communities have been recruited and trained.
- Resource centers have been established in recruited faith communities
- Outreach to faith communities.

**Reportable Outcomes:**

Outreach has been completed with all the faith communities. We are currently completing goals the follow up initiatives as outlined in the proposal. At the end of this, we will begin data analysis and publication of results.

**Conclusion:**

To date, there are not findings to reports for this study. Findings from earlier studies, such as recruitment strategies, have been implemented. Faith communities responded and have been recruited and trained. The last faith community completed their outreach training in January. We will do follow up with the men participating in the outreach begin data analysis.